

OPINION 1374

*BOIGA* FITZINGER, 1826 (REPTILIA, SERPENTES):  
CONSERVED

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Ihiba* Gray, 1825 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *Boiga* Fitzinger, 1826 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Cope, 1860, *Coluber irregularis* Bechstein, 1802, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *irregularis* Bechstein, 1802 as published in the binomen *Coluber irregularis* (specific name of the type species of *Boiga* Fitzinger, 1826) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *Ihiba* Gray, 1825, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)2404

An application for the conservation of *Boiga* Fitzinger, 1826 was first received from Dr J. B. Rasmussen (*Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) and Mr A. F. Stimpson (*British Museum (National History), London*) on 28 January 1982. It was sent to the printer on 20 July 1983 and published in *Bull. zool. Nom.*, vol. 40, pp. 209–210. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to ten general and three herpetological serials. A supportive comment was received from Professor H. B. Smith (*University of Colorado, U.S.A.*).

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 16 September 1985 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1985) 46 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 40, pp. 209–210. At the close of the voting period on 16 December 1985 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes—twenty-three (23) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Cocks, Willink, Savage, Kabata, Mroczkowski, Corliss, Bayer, Alvarado, Uéno, Hahn, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin, Zheng, Cogger, Schuster, Bernardi, Ride, Thompson, Halvorsen, Dupuis, Heppell

Negative Votes—none (0).

No votes were received from Gruchy, Kraus and Zheng.

Holthuis commented: ‘As far as I can see the author’s name of both *Coluber irregularis* and *Coluber trigonatus* is Bechstein only, and not

Merrem in Bechstein nor Schneider in Bechstein respectively. Bernstein's citations of Merrem and of Schneider as the authors, p. 239 and p. 256 respectively (the latter wrongly paginated as 156 and cited as such in the application) are not sufficient. There is no clear evidence in "the contents of the publication that ... some other person [than Bechstein] is alone responsible both for the name and for satisfying the criteria of availability" (Art. 50a of the Code). Neither is there any statement to the effect that the descriptions of these species are not by Bechstein in this volume, nor in the introduction of vol. 1 of Bechstein's book'. [This point was put to one of the co-authors (AFS), who agreed with the changed wording and this is incorporated into the present ruling].

#### ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*Boiga* Fitzinger, 1826, *Neue Classification der Reptilien nach ihren natürlichen Verwandtschaften*, pp. 29, 60

*Ibiba* Gray, 1825, *Ann. Phil.*, vol. 10, p. 209

*irregularis*, *Coluber*, Bechstein, 1802, *Herrn de la Cepède's Naturgeschichte der Amphibien*... p. 239.

The following is the original reference to the subsequent designation of a type species for the nominal genus *Boiga* Fitzinger, 1826: of *Coluber irregularis* Bechstein, 1802 by Cope, 1860, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philadelphia*, p. 264.

#### CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (1985) 46 were cast as set out above, that the proposals contained in that voting paper have been duly adopted under the plenary power, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1374.

P. K. TUBBS

Executive Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

16 December 1985